

Testimony of Patricia Wrice

Good afternoon, Senator Looney and Representative Janowski. , Members of the Executive Nominations Committee. My name is Patricia J. Wrice. I am honored to be nominated by House Speaker Chris Donovan to serve on the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

I believe both my personal background and professional experience gives me the insight to serve on the Commission.

Although, I am a native of Massachusetts, I've lived in Connecticut for over 40 years, the last 23 years in the City of Hartford.

I am the executive director of Operation Fuel. I have been the executive director for over 11 years. My background includes previous positions as an organizer for the New England Health Care Employees Union District 1199, executive director of the CHILD Council, (in that position I created The Building Parent Power organizing project that provided parents a vehicle for addressing health issues affecting the lives of their children), executive director of the Human Resources Agency of New Britain and Program Director for the Connecticut Housing Coalition.

Formerly I was the program director for Center City Churches in Hartford where I administered Operation Fuel funds to local clients. I have been working in the area for years and have over 30 years experience in the human services and community organizing field.

I hold a master's degree in Social Work in community organization from the University of Connecticut School Of Social Work and an undergraduate degree in political science and economics. I have been an adjunct professor at the University Of Connecticut and Capital State Technical College since 1990. I also have a Certificate in Non-profit Management from the Non-profit Support Program of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

I serve on a number of non-profit boards in Connecticut and also nationally. Some of the organizations I currently serve on are the Greater Hartford Legal Aid board, the Greater Hartford NAACP, the West Indian Foundation, the Greater Alliance of Black Social Workers, and the Friends of Keney Park.

I have always been committed to a world free of bias and bigotry. I believe that commitment, along with my background has prepared me for this position as commissioner. I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have for me.